

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A computer implemented system connected to a computer network and accessible by a plurality of ~~simultaneous~~ users for specifying, and ordering, and manufacturing injection molding systems, comprising in combination:

a configuring subsystem that uses one or more of customer defined parameters ~~and one or more manufacturing process determined parameters~~ to generate a ~~designed~~ customized injection molding system which implements the customer defined parameters; and

a processing subsystem in communication with the configuring subsystem that processes the customized injection molding system generated by the configuring subsystem to provide drawings of the customized injection molding system; for ~~processing the designed system, the processing subsystem being in communication with the configuring subsystem.~~

a business subsystem in communication with the configuring subsystem that calculates a cost for manufacturing the customized injection molding system and that determines a schedule for completing the customized injection molding system; and

a manufacturing subsystem in communication with the configuring subsystem that provides input for manufacturing the customized injection molding system generated by the configuring subsystem;

wherein the customized injection molding system includes a manifold plate that was partially manufactured and placed in inventory before the configuring subsystem received any customer defined parameters for the customized injection molding system.

2. (Currently amended) The computer implemented system of claim 1, wherein the manifold plate is a unitary manifold plate. ~~at least one of the configuring subsystem and the processing subsystem communicate with a business subsystem.~~

3. (Currently amended) The computer implemented system of claim 1 2, wherein the customer defined parameters comprise at least one of nozzle types, nozzle pitches, manifold shapes, manifold lengths, or manifold thickness. ~~the business subsystem provides a cost and schedule for manufacturing the designed system.~~

4. (Currently amended) The computer implemented system of claim 1, wherein the processing subsystem further provides a bill of materials for the customized injection molding system. ~~includes a business subsystem.~~

5. (Original) The computer implemented system of claim 1, wherein the configuring subsystem is in communication with a web page server and the computer network.

6. (Original) The computer implemented system of claim 5, wherein the computer network is the Internet.

7. (Original) The computer implemented system of claim 5, wherein the computer network is an Intranet.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently amended) The computer implemented system of claim 1, wherein the configuring subsystem provides for verification of the customized injection molding designed system in terms of at least one of functionality and safety.

Claims 10-16 (canceled).

17. (Currently amended) In a computer network-based system, an automated method for specifying, ~~and ordering, and manufacturing hot runner injection molding~~ systems, comprising:

partially manufacturing a plurality of hot runner components, including to
~~include partially manufactured~~ manifold plates, that form at least a portion of a hot runner system in a first phase;

placing the hot runner components in inventory;

receiving one or more customer defined ~~determined~~ parameters;

~~removing the hot runner components from inventory~~

~~configuring an injection molding system~~ using the one or more customer
defined determined parameters in a configuration subsystem ~~and one or more~~
~~manufacture process determined parameters~~ to generate a customized hot runner
~~configured~~ system;

submitting the customized hot runner ~~configured~~ system for processing to
a processing subsystem; ~~and~~

removing the hot runner components from inventory; and

further manufacturing the hot runner components in accordance with the customer defined parameters ~~customized specifications of the order~~ in a second phase to create the customized hot runner system.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17, further including creating drawings for the customized hot runner system via the processing subsystem. ~~based on the one or more customer determined parameters and the one or more manufacture process determined parameters.~~

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17, further including creating a bill of materials for based on the customized hot runner configured system via the processing subsystem.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17, further including determining manufacturing parameters such as, machine and tool codes based on the customized hot runner configured system.

21. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein the manifold plates are unitary manifold plates.

22. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein the manifold plates have predefined

shapes for hot runner systems, and a completed manifold plate has substantially the same shape as the predefined shape of the partially manufactured manifold plate.

23. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein the manifold plates are partially manufactured by drilling into each manifold plate a common melt inlet and one or more flow channels in communication with the melt inlet, the melt inlet being substantially perpendicular to the flow channels.

24. (New) A method for specifying, ordering, and manufacturing hot runner systems, comprising:

- forming a plurality of manifold plates that form at least a portion of a hot runner system in a first phase;

- partially manufacturing the manifold plates by drilling flow channels into the manifold plates;

- creating an inventory of the manifold plates;

- receiving customer defined parameters for a hot runner system;

- selecting from inventory one manifold plate that corresponds to the customer defined parameters;

- completing manufacturing of the selected manifold plate according to the customer defined parameters to thereby create a completed manifold plate.

25. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein the manifold plates are unitary manifold plates.

26. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein the manifold plates have predefined shapes, and a completed manifold plate has substantially the same shape as the predefined shape of the selected manifold plate.

27. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein the manifold plates are partially manufactured by drilling into each manifold plate a common melt inlet and one or more flow channels in communication with the melt inlet, the melt inlet being substantially perpendicular to the flow channels.